

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 15, with the following paragraph:

a¹ Hitherto, there is known an information providing system having, as an information source, information servers and homepages, distributed on a network such as the Internet, for providing information by the information source. It often happens that such an information providing system is provided with a retrieval engine for retrieving a desired piece of information so that a user of the system ~~is easy to~~ can easily find out the desired piece of information.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 19, with the following paragraph:

a² According to the information providing system 1 shown in Fig. 1, the retrieval engine 3 suitably accesses the information servers 2, so that the index stored in oneself is compared with an information group capable of being provided by the information servers 2 to check accuracy of the index. In the ~~even-~~ event that the index is inaccurate, the retrieval engine 3 collects from the information servers 2 a renewal information in which the information group capable of being provided by the information servers 2 is represented in the form of a difference from the current index, and renews the index stored in oneself in accordance with the renewal information. This is a renewal of the index according to the PULL scheme.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 3, with the following paragraph:

a³ In the event that such supplement and alteration of the retrieval engine occurs, in the information providing system 5 shown in Fig. 2, for the purpose of ~~produce~~ producing the renewal information for the retrieval engine involved in the supplement and alteration, there is a need for a manager and the like of each of the information servers 2 to newly produce the push program 6 of each of the information servers 2. However, the manager and the like of each of the

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information servers 2 is not always skilled in the retrieval engine involved in the supplement and alteration, and thus in general a production of the push program 6 is a great burden for the manager and the like of each of the information servers 2.

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